

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 398  
By Womack

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Coach Gary Rankin and the 1997 Riverdale High School football team, the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association Division 1, Class 5-A state champions.

WHEREAS, it is a great privilege to recognize those singular Tennessee athletic teams, who work tirelessly to achieve athletic excellence and achieve it; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy squad, the 1997 Riverdale High School football team, recently participated in the prestigious Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association, Division 1, Class 5-A state tournament, bringing home the coveted championship trophy with a resounding victory in the Clinic Bowl; and

WHEREAS, during their marvelous regular season, Riverdale compiled a superb 9-1 record, impressively defeating Fern Creek, Kentucky 36-8, Franklin County 46-0, Smyrna 47-0, Columbia 35-10, Lebanon 34-7, Coffee County 34-13, Lincoln County 42-0, Warren County 56-13, and Oakland 42-10; and

WHEREAS, they also won the coveted Region 4 title; and

WHEREAS, in the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association Division 1, Class 5-A state playoffs, the Warriors won their first-round contest against the Cookeville Cavaliers 48-14; defeated the Soddy Daisy Trojans in an epic second-round contest, 20-10; outfought the

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McMinn County Cherokees 41-0 in the quarterfinals; and sent the Sevier County Smokey Bears into hibernation 45-23 in semifinal action; and

WHEREAS, the awesome Riverdale machine then defeated Munford 34-18 to win the historic Clinic Bowl title game, held at Nashville's Dudley Stadium, December 6, 1997; and

WHEREAS, their puissant offense scored a phenomenal 580 points, an average of 39 per game; while their stingy defense allowed a mere 167 points, an average of 11 points per game; and

WHEREAS, Head Coach Gary Rankin, who also serves admirably as the school's Athletic Director, has done a superb job of molding the natural talent of the team into championship caliber; and

WHEREAS, Coach Rankin won considerable praise for his efforts, being acknowledged as the Class 5-A Coach of the Year and the Class 5-A Mid-State Coach of the Year; and

WHEREAS, his strong staff included: Assistant Coaches Greg Wyant, Steve Britton, Brad Cowan, Ron Crawford, David Watson, Rickey Field, and Lamar Davis; and

WHEREAS, the team leaders were: senior quarterback-defensive back Eric Locke, who was chosen Class 5-A American General "Mr. Football", *USA Today* State Player of the Year, All-State, Clinic Bowl Offensive and Defensive Most Valuable Player, Region 4 Most Valuable Player, and the Mid-State Most Valuable Player; senior Jon Kelly, who was named All-State, All-Region, and All-Mid-State; junior Todd Howard, who was selected All-State, All-Region, and All-Mid-State; senior Kolas Hughes, an All-Region and All-Mid-State honoree; junior Rashad Watkins, honored as All-Region and All-Mid-State; junior Jeremy Davis, All-Region and All-Mid-State; and senior Nick Patterson, who was named to the All-Region team; and

WHEREAS, the complete 1997 Riverdale High School football roster included: seniors Eric Locke, Mitchell Carmoski, Quentez Nelson, Jason Hill, Vincent Watkins, Dario Hodge, Craig Garrison, Jeremy L. Davis, Chad Mackens, Marcus Limbaugh, Jon Kelley, Scott Lowman, Harrison Mullins, Darnell Gresham, Kolas Hughes, Nick Patterson, and Eric Greer; juniors, Kyle Jones, Donnie Ayers, Dejuan Duke, Aundrell Cummings, Todd Howard, Donte Bell, Keane

McDonald, Rashad Watkins, Jeremy R. Davis, Billy Arrasmith, Troy Broughton, Gene Thorpe, Matt Sawyer, Micheal Smallwood, Brian Travis, Ryan Gjertson, Chris Brown, Rashawn Ray, Rusty Stephens, Josh Stewart and Joe Moos; sophomores, Ron Atkins, Shawn Sanford, Deran Martin, Conner Barnett, Guy Freeman, Brad Garrett, Chance Dittfurth, Jessie Chesterfield, Larry Verge, Tarrius Davis, Aaron Macedo, Jonathan Davis, Gabriel Besleaga, Bill Massaquoi, Justin Prince, Wes Denney, Malachi Hernandez, Donald Morris, Walker Thomas, Justin Waller, Terry Daniels, Kevon Bane, Rhett Bass, Corneice Hoke, Andy Davis, and Matthew Young; and freshman, Marvin Smith; and

WHEREAS, the Warriors have been strongly supported by Principal Tom Nolan and Assistant Principals, Robert James, Gail Vick, and Andrea Anthony; and

WHEREAS, those persons also deserving of special commendation include team doctors: Tom Johns and Michael Jordan; and

WHEREAS, the efficient student trainers were: Summer King, Sara Tanksley, Lauren Adkins, Shellie Lytle, and Todd Johnson; the dedicated managers were: Amanda Wright, Alisha Toy, Stephanie Wright, Chris Moorehead, Randy Shaw, Emily Trail, and Eric Hennessee; and the meaningful film duties were deftly handled by Neal Watson; and

WHEREAS, the cheerleaders, under the admirable sponsorship of Barbara Collie, were: Captain Sara Spears, Captain Natalie Wilson, Terra Wielgus, Tracie Sisco, Jaclyn Harney, Kristy Fisher, Paige Hargett, Melissa Ray, Julia Ray, Jennifer Boyce, Ashley Scott, Jennifer Gentry, Stephanie Warren and Ashley Todt; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we pause to specially recognize the many accomplishments of this outstanding team; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we honor and congratulate Coach Gary Rankin and the 1997 Riverdale

High School football team, a team whose memory will live forever in the annals of their school and in the glorious pages of Tennessee high school athletics.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That appropriate copies of this resolution be prepared for presentation to the school and to each person named above, with this final clause omitted from such copy.